

The Iroquois, powerful jet engine designed for Canada's Avro Arrow interceptor, caught fire Wednesday on a test flight and gave three fliers an anxious quarter of an hour.

Mounted in a pod at the tail of a borrowed U.S. Air Force B-47 bomber, the engine burst into flame over north-western Ontario.

Pilot Michael Cooper-Slipper, captain of a crew which included a co-pilot and an engineer observer, tripped a fire extinguishing system which put out the flames, then made a 15-minute run to Malton Airport.

Lorne Frame, public relations manager for Orenda Engines, Ltd., said the Iroquois caught fire again when the B-47 landed. The fire was put out by airport fire trucks.

"Things like this are in the nature of the business," Mr. Frame said. "This engine is in its development period and we are finding out what it can do. The one which caught fire is one of several which have been tested on the B-47. Now we will just put another one into the air."

The Iroquois is one of the most powerful jet engines ever built. It was first flown in the B-47 test pod in 1956. Two Iroquois engines will power the CF-105 Arrow, which was test-flown this week by Avro. The Arrow is being tested now with two engines of U.S. manufacture.

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